

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /054 W

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R 220815Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8867

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINT PO XZ US NO

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ON UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO PORTUGAL

REF: (A) OSLO 4663 (B) OSLO 4654 (C) STOCKHOLM 4590

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND CONFIRMED TO ME OCTOBER 19 THE INFORMATION, REPORTED REFTEL A AND CARRIED THE PREVIOUS DAY IN THE PRESS, THAT HE WOULD BE GOING TO PORTUGAL OCTOBER 26-27 AS MEMBER OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY DELEGATION HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER PALME. ON NORWEGIAN SIDE, DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAARE SANDEGREN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF LABOR PARTY, REIULF STEEN.

2. FRYDENLUND WAS FRANK TO SAY HE WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MAKING TRIP, REAL STATUS OF WHICH VAGUE BEING NEITHER OFFICIAL NOR UNOFFICIAL. HOWEVER, SOARES HAD INVITED HIM SEVERAL TIMES AND PRIME
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MINISTER BRATTELI DID NOT ACCEPT HIS

ARGUMENT HE SHOULD STAY HOME WHILE P.M. WAS MAKING OFFICIAL VISIT TO POLAND. FRYDENLUND MADE PLAIN HIS IRRITATION WITH PALME'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HIMSELF AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR SMALL NATIONS (SEPTEL) AND MAY NOT APPRECIATE THE ROLE OF BEING PART OF THE TAIL ON PALME'S KITE. HE MAY ALSO BE UNEASY AT GETTING OVERLY IDENTIFIED WITH A HIGHLY UNSTABLE SITUATION LIKE THAT IN PORTUGAL, WHICH IS TAKING ON ALLENDE-CHILE OVERTONES IN ITS HANDLING IN SOME LEFT-WING PRESS COMMENTARY.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, FRYDENLUND EXPLAINED, IS TO ASSIST THE SOCIALISTS IN PORTUGAL WITH A DISPLAY OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY AND TO CHECK ON WHAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE UP TO. BY STRENGTHENING THE SOCIALISTS, THE NORDICS HOPE TO PREVENT A COUNTER-COUP PUTTING THE RIGHTISTS BACK IN POWER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: FRYDENLUND SAID HE HOPED THE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE HIM BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR PORTUGAL WITH AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION THERE. I WILL BE SEEING FRYDENLUND PROBABLY OCTOBER 25 AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE OR INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE.
BYRNE

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